

MEMORANDUM

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UNRECORDED

04/03/97

To: Reed Hundt, Chairman
FCC
1919 M Street N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20036

From: Cynthia L. Vujea
Director of Instruction and Technology
Comstock Park Public Schools
101 School Street
Comstock Park, MI 49321-0800

Re: Federal Hearings To Be Held On Telecommunication Discounts

Date: March 28, 1997

I was pleased to read about the proposed discounts on all telecommunications services, including Internet access and related wiring.

In Comstock Park Public Schools, we are currently working on a technology plan that will enable us to network within and beyond our district boundaries. Our problem is that the cost of implementing this plan is so extensive that it restricts the amount of hardware we can place within the schools and in the hands of our students. If this discount were to be extended to us, students would be the winners—they would have the ability to utilize technology as a means to attaining current, relevant information that would enhance their studies. Without the discount, the number of students that would have access to worldwide technologies through telecommunication would be limited.

I support the Joint Board recommendations for providing discounted telecommunications services to schools and libraries and encourage you to continue your efforts to make telecommunication services available to all schools and libraries at a discounted rate.

Sincerely,



Cynthia L. Vujea
Director of Instruction and Technology

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Cynthia L. Vujea

DIRECTOR OF INSTRUCTION AND TECHNOLOGY • COMSTOCK PARK PUBLIC SCHOOLS

LARRY THOMASON

Representative, 163rd District
State Capitol
Jefferson City, MO 65101-6806
Phone: (573) 751-8591
FAX: (573) 751-0733



DISTRICT ADDRESS

P.O. Box 523
Kennett, MO 63857
Phone: (573) 888-4100
FAX: (573) 888-4356

**MISSOURI
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

April 1, 1997

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

04/03/97

Chairman Reed Hundt
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: CC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Chairman Hundt:

I am writing to express my concern about the Joint Board recommendation for the universal transition plan. The Telecommunications Act of 1996 promised to make rates and services reasonable for rural customers; however, the policies which the commission has proposed have the potential to be damaging to rural areas.

Freezing federal support would lessen incentives for small-town telephone companies to improve their infrastructure and cause rate increases for any infrastructure improvements made. Eliminating support for business lines would make Internet usage more costly in rural areas and increased rates would discourage businesses from moving to rural areas, thereby decreasing rural economic growth.

Rural areas have unique hardships that make economic growth and modernization difficult. It seems that the Joint Board recommendation would further increase these hardships. Therefore, I encourage the board to reevaluate its proposal and consider options which accomplish the Act's objectives in a manner that is less costly to rural Missouri.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Larry Thomason".

Larry Thomason

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Date 4/3/97



Broken Arrow Public Schools

Dr. Jerry W. Hill, Superintendent of Schools

March 31, 1997

04/23/97

The Honorable Reed Hundt, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M. Street N. W., Room 814
Washington, D.C. 20554

RE: CC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Chairman Hundt:

I am writing to encourage that you seriously consider the link between universal access to telecommunication services for all public schools and our nation's competitiveness in the Information Age. With the development of the Internet and high speed telecommunications applications, the opportunity for reaching every child in this nation with quality learning experiences exists today as it has at no other time in our history. The commission's actions on May 8, will determine the future opportunities provided to millions of children across this nation.

As the final implementation recommendations are being developed, please take a moment of your time to realize that currently only 14% of our nation's classrooms are connected to the Internet primarily due to cost. The creation of an "E-rate" will guarantee that even the poorest schools will have an opportunity and greatly enhance the ability of principals and teachers to prepare their students for the Information Age. This plan is essential for preparing the workforce of tomorrow. More Broken Arrow students would receive more comprehensive access to the Internet and distance-learning with this discount.

Please consider our nation's students as you cast your vote on May 8.

Sincerely,

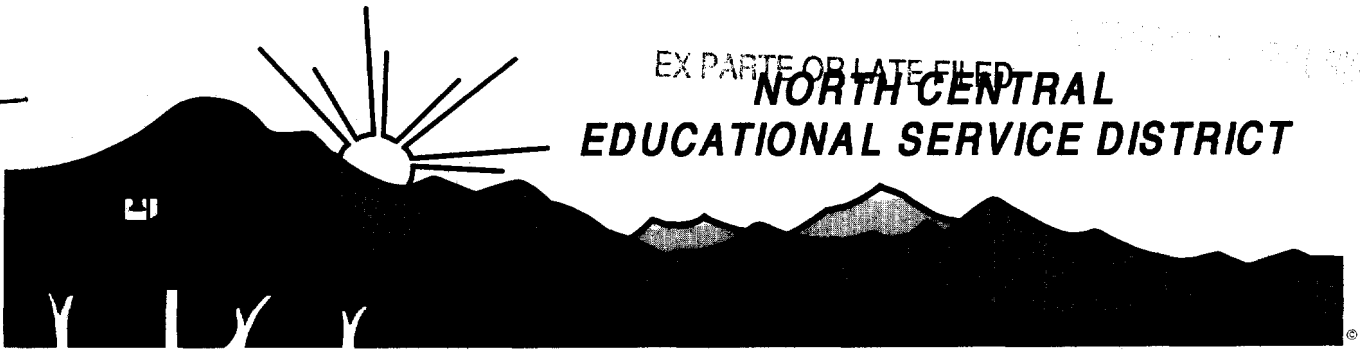
Jerry W. Hill, Ed.D.
Superintendent

slb

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Date _____

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EX PARTE OR LATE FILED
**NORTH CENTRAL
EDUCATIONAL SERVICE DISTRICT**



Sharing the Vision for Student Success

March 31, 1997

CC 96-48
04/03/97

The Honorable Reed Hundt, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M. Street, N.W., Room 844
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Chairman Hundt:

The other Washington, Washington State, has 296 individual schools that would benefit greatly from affordable access to the Information Superhighway. Your commitment and dedication to the concept of ensuring that all school districts and education consortia will have this access is greatly appreciated.

The discounts provided would be used for telecommunication transport costs throughout our state and would guarantee equal access for our close to one million students in an equitable and consistent manner. Our school districts range in size from seven students in Star, Washington, to over 43,000 in Seattle School District. Washington is geographically spread out and the distance between many districts is significant. Telecommunication access would not only ensure world wide information, but would greatly assist information exchange within our state.

The Telecommunication Act and the Federal-State Joint Board decision will guarantee that all school districts have the opportunity to connect to the Internet and provide distance-learning opportunities. The \$2.25 billion a year will address the needs of all our schools and, importantly, the plan will bring services directly to the classroom where students learn. Your inclusion of internal classroom connections for discounts is vital. This plan is essential for preparing the workforce of tomorrow.

The students in Washington State need significant discounts for telecommunications services this year. I urge the FCC to fully support the Joint Board's discount plan for universal service for schools.

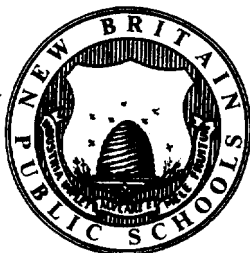
Thank you.

Gene Sharratt

Gene Sharratt, Chair
Washington State Educational Service District Superintendents' Group

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EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

Consolidated School District of New Britain
Office of the Superintendent
One Liberty Square
New Britain, Connecticut 06050-1960
(860) 827-2204 Fax (860) 229-7075

CC96-45

04/03/97

March 31, 1997

Reed Hundt, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, N.W., Room 814
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Mr. Hundt:

I am the Superintendent of Schools for New Britain, Connecticut, and I would like to thank you for your dedication in ensuring that all schools will have affordable access to the Information Superhighway.

The Telecommunications Act and the Federal-State Joint Board discount plan will guarantee that even the poorest schools will have the opportunity to connect to the Internet and provide distance-learning opportunities. The \$2.25 billion a year will address the needs of all our schools, and importantly, the plan will bring services directly to the classroom where students learn. Your inclusion of internal classroom connections for discounts is vital. This plan is essential for preparing the workforce of tomorrow.

As a city school district with limited funds, affordable access to the Internet and provision for distance learning is essential.

Our students need deep discounts for telecommunications service this year. I urge the FCC to fully support the Joint Board's discount plan for universal service for schools and libraries.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

James P. Rhinesmith, Ph.D.
Superintendent of Schools

/p

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LH AGCDE

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